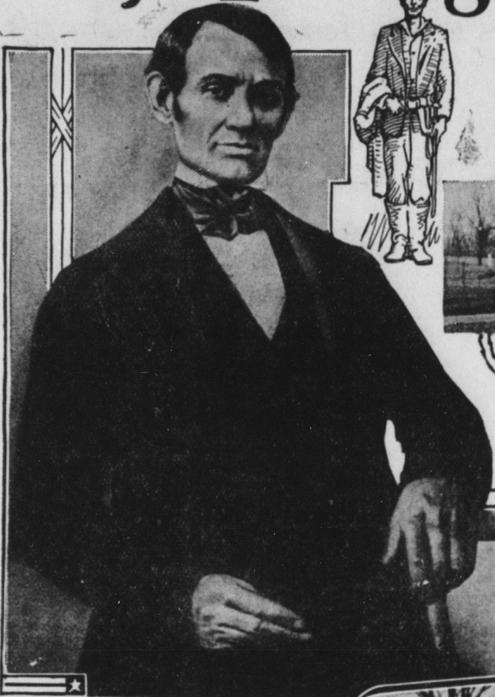
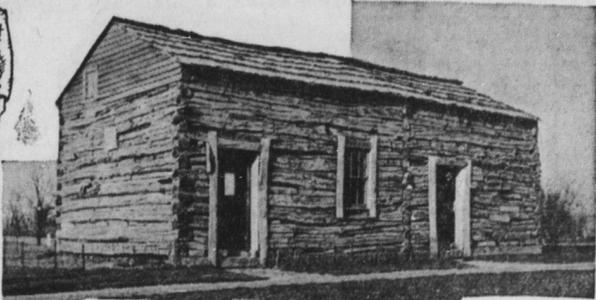


# Back to the Days of Young A. Lincoln



A. Lincoln



The Rutledge Tavern



The Lincoln-Berry Store

All Photographs (Except Lincoln) by the Author



The Grave of Ann Rutledge



The Hill-McNamar Store



The Offut Store

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

**Y**OU are riding in your automobile on a paved road from Peoria to Springfield, Ill. Off to the west runs a branch road, also a modern highway. If you follow it, in a little while you come to the town of Petersburg—just another little Middle Western city. But keep on going south. Now you are following a winding road which leads up on the bluffs overlooking the Sangamon river. Suddenly you forget that you are riding in an automobile and that you have been speeding over a modern concrete road. You forget that this is 1932. For a hundred years roll back and it is the year 1832. The magic which has brought about this transformation is the sight of a little cluster of log cabins scattered over a grassy tract of some 60 acres which unfolds before you.

The cabins are empty, it is true, but if you have any imagination at all, it's easy enough to people them. Come over here to this cabin. The sign in front of it says that it is the Offut store. Walk inside. There behind the rough plank counter a tall, gangling, awkward-looking young man is unrolling a bolt of calico and holding it out to the appraising fingers of a woman in a homespun dress. Do you recognize him? No?

Well, then, come over here to this big double log cabin. The sign on the front says it is the Rutledge tavern. It is evening and in front of the fire which blazes in the big fireplace at one end of the room is a group of men. It's pretty likely they'll be listening to a story which this same tall, gangling, awkward-looking young man is telling. Back in the shadows you may be able to see the form of a young girl—an unusually attractive girl even though she is dressed in calico. She is the daughter of the tavern-keeper and her name is Ann. But if by chance the tall man isn't in the Rutledge tavern let's take a look in another cabin nearby. It's the cooper shop of a certain Henry Onstott. There's a fireplace here, too, and stretched out on the floor in front of it is this young man we've been seeking. Of course, you've guessed who it is by now. But just in case you haven't, ask him to let you take his book for a moment. Look on the flyleaf in front and there you'll see the name "A. Lincoln."

Of all the memorials that have been erected to the memory of Abraham Lincoln this one on the banks of the Sangamon river in Menard county, Illinois, is unique. It is no imposing edifice of marble or granite. It contains no work from the chisel and mallet of a great sculptor, portraying once more the familiar face and form of the Great Emancipator. But when the projected reconstruction work is completed, the village of New Salem, where Lincoln "passed from raw untutored youth to strong intellectual manhood," will be a place where his fellow-Americans can go and in the atmosphere of that place they can more nearly feel a spiritual kinship to him than in any other place dedicated to his memory.

Of Old Salem park, the state park which has been established there, a recent bulletin of the Illinois department of public works and buildings says:

"It was a small town but it gave birth to a Great Soul. When Lincoln at the age of twenty-two, drifted down the river in 1831 and stranded his boat upon the famous mill dam at Old Salem, the town was only two years old, but in those two years it had gained a population of one hundred inhabitants and scattered along its one long street on either side there were in the neighborhood of 25 cabins of varying size including the large, two-story double room tavern.

"Here he came a friendless overgrown boy, uncouth, uneducated, with a knowledge of only the barest rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic. Here he chopped wood, tended store, became a merchant for himself, narrowly avoiding bankruptcy and utterly failed in commercial lines. He was appointed postmaster, using his hat for his office. He acted as surveyor and his monuments are yet taken as authority. . . . Here he studied grammar, philosophy and law and learned to debate against men of warning.

"During his residence here his character was

formed; his education was completed, his name of 'Honest Abe' acquired; he caught the urge to serve humanity in a big broad, unselfish way. Here sweet chapters were written into his great life which grip the hearts of men throughout the world. . . .

"With Lincoln's departure in 1837 for wider fields, Old Salem having served its purpose, went into a decline and became a deserted village. Its cabins were removed to Petersburg where fortunately one was preserved. This was the Onstott Cooper shop where by the light of the cooper's shingles, Lincoln studied Shakespeare, Burns and Blackstone. It has been returned to its original foundation at Old Salem.

"Salem is the old Biblical word meaning 'peace' and here if you have any sentiment coursing in your blood, you will find peace. Perfect peace hovers over this serene, stately eminence of green jutting out into the quiet sea of prairie and woodland. Old Salem never ceased to mean much to Lincoln. He expected to make it his rural home after his second Presidency.

" . . . Research work has brought to view the original foundations of every log cabin along these forgotten streets, the almost obliterated road leading out of the village to Springfield and the path from Offut's store where Lincoln clerked, down to the grist mill where he was wont to officiate. Soon all log cabins will be restored on their original foundations and all cabins, shops and mill will be furnished as they were in 1831.

"When this work is tactfully done, the semblance of a vanished era will be perfect. The associations, the taverns, the homes, the old well which is now in use, the paths of a great life will be eloquently imparted to us. The six happiest and most fruitful years Abraham Lincoln had spent up to this time in his life will lie before us more vividly than tongue or pen could describe them."

So far the buildings which have been restored are the Rutledge tavern, the Offut store, near which took place the famous Armstrong-Lincoln wrestling match; the store where Lincoln and William Berry were business partners; the Henry Onstott cooper shop and the Hill and McNamar store. There is also a handsome stone structure which is used as a Lincoln museum, containing many interesting Lincoln relics. Although the original town was named New Salem, the state park and the restored village is called Old Salem. This was necessary because there is a New Salem in Pike county, Illinois, and a town of Salem in Marion county. So to prevent confusion, it was thought best to call the resurrected town Old Salem.

It was during Lincoln's life in New Salem that there became associated with his name some of the innumerable stories so familiar to all of us. Some of them are sufficiently authenticated to be accepted as fact but others are pure legend. Not the least of the services of the late Senator Albert J. Beveridge in his monumental biography of Lincoln, published by the Houghton Mifflin company some four years ago, was the confirming of some of these legends and the dispelling of others so that an authentic portrait of Lincoln emerged from the great mass of evidence of which he examined.

The high spot in Lincoln's career at New Salem in the mind of most people, no doubt, was his romance with Ann Rutledge, daughter of the tavernkeeper, over which so many writers have rhapsodized, albeit usually inaccurately. There was a very substantial basis of fact for the legend which has sprung up about this love affair, but it was not the "grand passion" which has been so often depicted. Of her Beveridge says:

"Ann appears to have been the most attractive girl in New Salem and was courted by the two most prominent and prosperous young men of the village, Samuel Hill and John McNamar. McNamar was her favorite and she became engaged to the thrifty young financier with whom, it would appear, she was very much in love. Lincoln, too, 'had great partialities' for her, but McNamar stood in his way. . . . McNamar and Lincoln were friends and the young merchant did not know that Lincoln was 'paying any particular attention to any of the Young Ladies of my acquaintance' as, indeed, he was not at that time. On her part, Ann was not then 'favorably impressed' with Lincoln, who was 'young, poor and awkward' and without prospects, while both Hill and McNamar were 'up in the world.'"

McNamar went by the name of McNeil in New Salem, a name which he had assumed when he left his home in New York to seek his fortune in the West and pay off the debts which his father had accumulated. His only reason for the change of name was in order "to avoid pursuit by his parents" and there was no disgrace attached to that change. But it led to tragedy just the same. For McNamar went back East, fell ill and with other troubles piling up on him, his letters to Ann, to whom he had confessed his real name, became infrequent and finally ceased coming to New Salem.

"Troubled that letters from her betrothed no longer came, Ann told her parents of McNamar's change of name. Suspicion instantly sprang up and possessed the Rutledge family. Rumor of the circumstances soon ran from cabin to cabin in the little hamlet; gossip made the worst of the situation. . . . Ann had been abandoned.

"So stood matters when Lincoln, through whose hands (as postmaster at the time) her correspondence with McNamar had passed, began his courtship, the nature and course of which are misty. No positive engagement resulted, although it seems that there was a tentative agreement to marry, 'conditional,' however, asserts Ann's brother, 'to an honorable release from the contract with McNamar.' Indeed, when urged by her younger brother, David, to marry Lincoln, Ann refused until she could see McNamar again and 'inform him of the change.'"

But she was destined never to see him again for she died on August 25, 1835. "When Lincoln came from the bedside of the dying girl, observers noted that he was despondent and, when she died, he appeared gloomy and dejected. Again, in the village, 'old people' wagged their heads and said that he was mentally unbalanced, this time because of sorrow. 'But various opinions obtained as to the cause of his change, some thought it was an increased application to his law studies, others that it was deep anguish of soul (as he was all soul) over the loss of Miss R.'"

Beveridge then quotes another biographer of Lincoln as saying "Gossip and imagination have represented this early romance as casting a shadow over his whole after life, and as having produced something bordering upon insanity. The picture has been somewhat too highly colored and the story made rather too tragic." It was sufficiently tragic for the first love of Ann Rutledge for some three months later McNamar came back to New Salem to find his betrothed dead.

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## Cold Insurance

He carries it with him, ready for just such times. That little box of Bayer Aspirin. If he catches cold, what of it? Bayer Aspirin will stop it. If his throat feels sore, he will end the soreness with one good gargle made from these tablets.

Dangerous complications can follow the neglect of "a common cold." Every case of tonsillitis began with "just a sore throat!" It's a wise plan to take aspirin after any undue exposure to bad weather, or whenever there is any chance that you've caught cold. If it's genuine aspirin it can't possibly hurt you; and how it does banish the aches and pains caused by colds, neuralgia, neuritis, lumbago, and even rheumatism.

Bayer Aspirin will insure your comfort through the worst cold season. The more susceptible you are to colds, the more you need it. Does not depress the heart.

### French Writer on

#### American Culture

I should like to meet in every European country women as truly cultivated as those whom I have seen in the great colleges of the eastern United States—at Bryn Mawr, at Vassar and at Smith.

My students at Princeton were capable of following intelligently a lecture in French, and their reading was wide. To read the output of the younger American authors is to be convinced that it could not be the expression of an uncultured people. A novelist such as Hemingway, by his taste and his restraint, heralds a great epoch. A critic like Edmund Wilson would do honor to any French or English review.

The tone of the best magazines indicates a true taste for ideas. It might be answered that these magazines address themselves only to a small minority of highbrows, and that the rest are vulgar. But is not that true of all countries?

For my part, I think, like my fellow countryman, Paul Morand, that we shall have difficulty in saving our western civilization during the next few decades, but that one of its sanctuaries, along with Paris, London and some of the great European universities, will be the rocky islets of Manhattan.—Andre Maurois in the London Morning Post.

You'll always find a good looking glass.

### Plumb Worthless

Uncle Dan, centenarian and ex-slave, is a pensioner of a South Carolina family. One day, while he was drawing his regular dole, his present patron took occasion to rally him the cost of his upkeep; in fact, of being lazy and no-account in general.

"Yes, seh, I expect that's right," the old man agreed. "But it ain't my fault. I remembers the day when your grandpappy paid \$1,200 for me, good-humoredly on not being worth and then Mr. Lincoln comes along with the 'manipulation proclamation and made me just plumb worthless.'"

—Country Gentleman.

### Miniature Schoolhouse

A schoolhouse, 20 by 50 feet, which will house 30 pupils, was built in one day at Cape Creek, Ore. Employees of the state highway crew did the construction work. The pupils will be children of the construction gang, and the teacher will be the wife of one of the employees.

### Safe Escape

"Were there cries of 'Author! Author!' when your play was produced?"

"Yes, but I was running too fast for them!"

In youth, you read of strange and fascinating places. When you are older, you visit them.

The law of heaven is love.

## CORRECT GROWTH for Children



You can help your children gain sturdy bones and strong teeth by giving them Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil daily. (It's the Vitamin D content that does it.) But there's also a wealth of Vitamin A present that builds resistance—in parents as well as children—to such common illnesses as winter colds. It's the pleasant, easy way to take cod liver oil. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J. Sales Representative, Harold F. Ritchie & Co., Inc., New York.

LISTEN to the Scott & Bowne radio program "Adventuring with Count von Luckner" on Sunday night at 9:30 p.m. (E. S. T.) over the Columbia Coast-to-Coast Network.

## Scott's Emulsion OF NORWEGIAN COD LIVER OIL

**His Kind Deed**  
A lad who has been taught to do a kind deed each day was having a heart-to-heart talk with his mother at bedtime.

"Did you do a kind deed today?" mother asked.

"Yes, Mary's curls were on my desk when she leaned back in her seat at school. The teacher was looking and I didn't pull her hair," replied the lad.

**Porcupines Destroy Trees**  
San Juan national forest officials have discovered a new enemy of trees—porcupines. The animals rub trees with their sharp quills, stripping a ring around them and causing them to "spike top," or die at the top first. Forest Supervisor Andrew Hutton estimated porcupines have caused as much damage to the tim-

ber during the last few years as that caused by fire. A campaign against them, he said, would be made.

**Precaution**  
Roddie was taking his little brother Phil to Sunday school for the first time. He seemed rather concerned about it and just before starting, turned to his mother and said: "Mother, what is Phil's last name? They might ask me."

To keep clean and healthy take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They regulate liver, bowels and stomach.—Adv.

**Ungathered Rice**  
"Paddy" is the name given to unhusked rice, whether growing or gathered.

Human nature remains the same, but not at all times of the day.

RELIEVES HEAD, CHEST and BACK COLDS

McKesson's **ALBATUM** 35¢

Stainless "Rub In" and inhalant unsurpassed in preventing and relieving cold congestions

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